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Bringing on the HEAT

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FORT SILL, Okla. — Rollover! Rollover! Rollover echoed throughout the Highly Mobile Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicle Egress Assistance Trainer (HEAT) building as the Arizona Army National Guard Soldiers in the 2nd Battalion, 285th Aviation (2-285 AHB) progressed through the training on Oct. 14 here as part of their mobilization training in support of Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO). The purpose of the training is to assist Soldiers in learning ways to get out of a Humvee in the case of a rollover. There are four basic battle drills that the Soldiers complete during their training. First, the Soldiers inside the HEAT get rotated 25-30 degrees to orient them to how the HEAT turns and to what it might feel like just before a rollover. Second, the trainers turn the HEAT 180 degrees and hold it there. This is to show the Soldiers how to properly and safely support themselves in the event of a rollover. Third, the Soldiers egress out of the Humvee in a dry land scenario. Lastly, the Soldiers egress out of the Humvee with goggles that the lenses are spray painted to simulate being submerged in water or mud.

“Having the goggles to simulate water was realistic because you could see a little bit of light through the goggles,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Charles Hoelzel,

UH-60 Blackhawk pilot. "You could kind of make out objects and things blocking you, but you couldn't tell what it was."

The HEAT was designed to provide servicemembers a realistic, hands-on approach to reacting to a rollover. A camera is mounted inside one of the HEAT machines and projects onto a screen for the rest of the unit to see how the Soldiers react during the training.

"By watching what is going on inside the HEAT, the Soldiers can see what right and wrong looks like," Sgt. 1st Class Chad Johnston, HEAT trainer, 1st Battalion, 290th Regiment. "The value of this training is to save lives. Since the program started a couple years ago, there has been a 58 percent decrease in fatalities due to rollovers."

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Cutlines:

(20091014-A-5683P-071) FORT SILL, Okla. – Chief Warrant Officer 2 Charles Hoelzel, UH-60 Blackhawk pilot, 2nd Battalion, 285th Aviation, Arizona Army National Guard, egresses out of the Highly Mobile Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicle Egress Assistance Trainer on Oct. 14 as part of the unit's mobilization training for their upcoming deployment in support of Overseas Contingency Operations. **(Photo by Sgt. Sarah B. Patterson, 479th Field Artillery Brigade Public Affairs Office)**

(20091014-A-5683P-037) FORT SILL, Okla. – Sgt. 1st Class Chad Johnston, Highly Mobile Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicle Egress Assistance Trainer operator, 1st Battalion, 290th Regiment, rotates the 2nd Battalion, 285th Aviation Soldiers on Oct. 14 as part of their mobilization training for their upcoming deployment in support of Overseas Contingency Operations. **(Photo by Sgt. Sarah B. Patterson, 479th Field Artillery Brigade Public Affairs Office)**